

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
/119 W

-----096143 071416Z /72

O R 071255Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7412
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 1135

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IAEA, SF
SUBJECT: BOTHA'S REMARKS ON NUCLEAR ISSUE

FOLLOWING IS THE ADVANCE HANSARD TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER
BOTHA'S REMARKS ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE IN THE PARLIAMENTARY
DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY ON JUNE 6:

QUOTE: THEN HE (AN OPPOSITION MP) RAISED A VERY THORNY
AND DELICATE ISSUE IN REGARD TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.
THIS, HE OUGHT TO KNOW, IS A RATHER SENSITIVE AREA. HE WILL
REMEMBER THAT THE HON. THE PRIME MINISTER FORMALLY STATED LAST
YEAR THAT WE DID NOT HAVE AND DID NOT INTEND DEVELOPING NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. THIS IS THE FIRST POINT I WANT TO MAKE IN
THIS RESPECT. THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCESSION TO
THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION OVER
THE LAST FEW YEARS. ALLOW ME TO STATE CATEGORICALLY
THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE OF
NON-PROLIFERATION. WE ARE CERTAINLY VERY MUCH IN FAVOUR OF IT,
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BECAUSE WE ARE AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF PROLIFERATION. HOWEVER,
WHAT IS, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US,
IS THAT WE SHOULD LIKE TO BE SATISFIED THAT THAT WILL, AT THE SAME
TIME, NOT ENDANGER THE SECRECY OF OUR OWN PROCESS OF ENRICHMENT.
IN ADDITION, WE SHOULD WISH TO BE SATISFIED THAT THE DISCRIMINATORY
MEASURES SO FAR TAKEN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IN THIS FIELD, WILL
CEASE. THE GOVERNMENT IS VERY SERIOUS IN THIS RESPECT.

THE HON. THE PRIME MINISTER DEALT WITH THIS IN SOME OF HIS ADDRESSES LAST YEAR. WHILE DEALING WITH THIS, I SHOULD JUST LIKE TO REFER ALSO TO THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL OUSTING OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. THIS IS SOMETHING OF WHICH THE HON. MEMBER FOR CONSTANTIA IS AWARE, SOMETHING TO WHICH HE ALSO, QUITE RIGHTLY REFERRED.

QUOTE: THERE ARE, OF COURSE, SOME EVEN MORE SERIOUS ASPECTS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. FOR INSTANCE, WE WANT TO BE REASSURED REGARDING THE WITHHOLDING OF THE SUPPLY OF FUEL FOR THE SAFARI-REACTOR. THIS FUEL WAS WITHHELD FROM US IN SPITE OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT WE HAD PAID FOR IT AND SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE FUEL WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY SAFEGUARDS. IN SPITE OF THESE THREE FACTORS, WE ARE NOT GETTING THE FUEL FOR WHICH WE PAID. WE SHOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO BE SATISFIED IN THIS RESPECT. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF THE SUPPLY OF FUEL TO THE KOEBERG NUCLEAR INSTALLATION. AGAIN WE WANT TO KNOW WHETHER ESCOM, WHO HAS A CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SUPPLY OF THAT FUEL, WILL HAVE THAT FUEL DELIVERED TO IT. WE WANT GUARANTEES IN THIS RESPECT. FINALLY, I MIGHT MENTION THAT, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 4 OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, NUCLEAR POWERS ARE OBLIGED TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO OTHER SIGNATORIES ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT. WE WANT TO KNOW WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA, IF EVER SHE SHOULD DECIDE OR CONSIDER TO ACCEDE, BE TREATED--IN TERMS OF THAT TREATY-- LIKE UNCLASSIFIED

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ANY OTHER ORDINARY, NORMAL STATE IN THE WORLD OR WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA WILL AGAIN BE SINGLED OUT. WILL SPECIAL PROVISIONS AGAIN BE MADE FOR US? WILL WE AGAIN, IN THAT WAY HAVE TO SUFFER DISCRIMINATION WHICH WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO ACCEDE TO THAT TREATY?

QUOTE: THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS THAT KEEP US BUSY. THEY ARE RECEIVING ATTENTION. I SHOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO APPEAL TO THE HON. MEMBER FOR CONSTANTIA TO ACCEPT MY REPLY AND NOT RAISE ANY FURTHER DIFFICULT QUESTIONS IN THIS RESPECT. UNQUOTE. EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, NUCLEAR ENERGY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET01135
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780237-1060
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780688/aaaacxfe.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 72485e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2460086
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOTHA'S REMARKS ON NUCLEAR ISSUE FOLLOWING IS THE ADVANCE HANSARD TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA'S REMARKS ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE IN THE PARLIA
TAGS: PARM, SF, IAEA, (BOTHA, PIK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72485e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014